



U.S. Department of the Interior | Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Agriculture | Forest Service

Bureau of Land Management
Challis Field Office
1151 Blue Mountain Road
Challis, Idaho 83226

Salmon-Challis National Forest
Middle Fork Ranger District
311 N. US Highway 93
Challis, ID 83226

Dear Interested Party,

I am writing because you have expressed an interest in the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak (JMJP) Wilderness Management Plan. The Salmon-Challis National Forest (SCNF) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Challis Field Office are beginning to develop the framework for completing this plan. I wanted to provide you with some background information, and an opportunity to be involved in this planning process.

Background

On August 7, 2015 President Obama approved the *Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act* (Public Law 114-46), which included the designation of three new wilderness areas as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, including the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness (116,898 acres). The U.S. Forest Service and BLM cooperatively administer this wilderness.

The Wilderness Act, signed into law in 1964, established the highest level of conservation protection for federal lands. The Wilderness Act provides the overriding mandate to each agency to preserve wilderness character. Wilderness management plans are developed using the sideboards of the Wilderness Act, the designation legislation for an area, in this case the *Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act*, and agency policy. A wilderness management plan guides the preservation, management, and use of the wilderness to ensure that wilderness is unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.

The designating legislation for this wilderness area requires, in Section 102(c), the USFS and the BLM to develop wilderness management plans no "later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act." In fulfillment of this requirement, the BLM Challis Field Office and SCNF are initiating development of a Wilderness Management Plan for the JMJP Wilderness. The Wilderness Management Plan will provide the preliminary management guidance for the BLM and FS in decisions affecting this wilderness area. The primary planning objectives are to:

- provide management direction for the preservation of wilderness character by identifying the conditions and opportunities that will be managed for within wilderness,
- develop clear wilderness management objectives, and the policies and actions by which these objectives will be pursued, and
- provide opportunities for interested publics to supply input and participate in the planning process.

Public Involvement Opportunity

As the BLM and FS begin this planning effort, we are seeking input on the any of the following:

- Values and desired conditions for the JMJP Wilderness,
- Concerns or issues within the wilderness, or
- Proposed management actions, which may include topics such as the management of wildlife, recreation, or noxious and invasive weeds.

For additional questions that will help guide the development of the Plan, please see the attached scoping input form.

Those interested on commenting during this preliminary scoping period may respond in one of the following ways by **August 25, 2016**:

- Send an email to Emily Simpson, Wilderness Planner, at emilysimpson@fs.fed.us,
- Send a hardcopy letter to BLM, Challis Field Office, 1151 Blue Mountain Road, Challis, Idaho 83226,
- Access the BLM's EPlanning site at <http://bit.ly/2ahAsg2> to provide responses online.

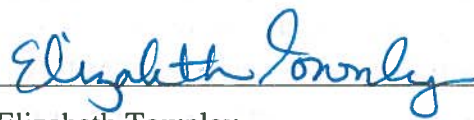
The agencies anticipate a draft wilderness management plan will be available for public review in early 2017. The comments you provide at this time will help guide the development of the Plan.

For more information on the JMJP Wilderness, including a map, please visit the BLM's website at <http://on.doi.gov/1UViHOs>. The BLM's project website for the JMJP Wilderness is available online at: <http://bit.ly/2ahAsg2>.

Sincerely,



For Todd Kuck Date 212-July-2016
BLM Challis Field Office Manager



Elizabeth Townley Date 7/22/2016
Middle Fork District Ranger